DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Notes on

Upper India Hedges

Their Utility and Ornainental?

Developments

A. E. P. GRIESSEN,

Deputy Director, Garden Stick, Could Procuees.

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NOTES ON

UPPER INDIA HEDGES

THEIR UTILITY AND ORNAMENTAL DEVELOPMENT,

in the disposition of all parks and gardens, whother employed in the formal classic garden; or put to more utilitarian uses for the demarcation of estates or the enclosure of cottages and fields, where they in time become living walls affording protection to cultivation, etc. Hedges are morthy of greater consideration and attention to their selection and welfare than is generally bestowed on them.

There is an ample evidence that hedges have been imployed from the earliest times—long ages before the first conception of the laws governing landscape architecture. They are in evidence in the earliest European gardens. Lonotre, to whom we owe the inception of the early French school of landscape and gardening architecture, has in his wonderful conceptions of the parks and gardens of Versailles, made great use of hedges to amplify each of his creations. What would be the setting of his thirteen muses without his world and hadges his laybrinth, his wonderful water effects without their hedges, in the back ground? They are to-day with a conceived them to be, the main formation of the layer and setting he conceived, their position in relation to each to be without worked out.

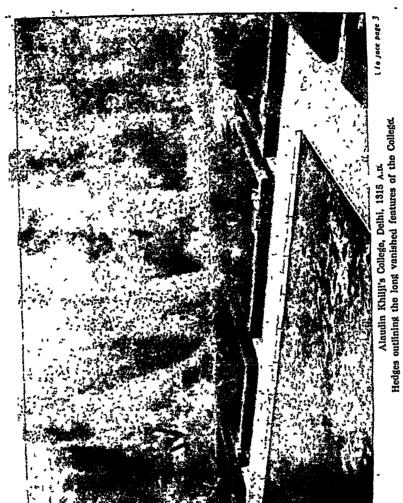
In India formal gardening is neglected and hedges seldom play the ornamental part they might be made to do. This is doubtless due to the influence of those early Indian gardens, now decayed where formal designs were ill-conceived and applied to a ground "lay-out" without regard to the limitations imposed by considerations of space, size and growth of the vegetation selected.

With the advent of the Great Moghals however, one notices the birth of the architectural formal garden characterized by its stone-paved causeways, platforms, tanks, fountains and masonry watercourses. Their architectural setting and outlines obviously harmonize; but with the limited scope these comparatively small walled-in parterres provide for the vegetation needed to show to the best advantage the monument which they usually adorn, where a large tree would create a setting in harmony with the monument, in most cases it would overpower the parterre in which it was planted.

Formality can be overdone, but it is generally recognized to be the only method by which foreground of residences can be effectively dealt with: It is the judicious blending of the formal and the natural that is such a pleasing feature of our old English gardens, where the surrounding of the residence with its formal setting gradually merge into the natural.

Hedges in India are usually planted as lences to demarcate the compounds of houses and enclosures; to screen undesirable spots and to protect cultivation. Seldom are they developed on ornamental lines in relation to a formal design. In recent years hedges have been successfully employed in some of our archeological conservation works to re-trace the outlines of extinct structures; colonnades, piers, etc. In this manner the long-vanished outlines of some of our most interesting archeological relies have been re-established in hedges, notably they akkeri Mahal in the Agra Fort and the porished enclosures of the world-famed courtyards in the Fort at Delhi, which once





witnessed all the splendours of the Great Moghal Court. The grounds of the Kutub at Dolhi have been similarly treated. Hedges now mark the position of the original colonnades of the great mosque enclosures of Alaudin Khilji taking in the mosque forecourts of the Kutubuddin Aibek and Altamash, and the alignment of the western wall of Alaudin Khilji's great mosque designed to form the outline of the great prayer chamber, the sacred wall which was to accommodate the melirab or sanctuary of the mosque. Exhaustive excavations have discovered the eastern and northern sides of Alaudin Khilji's college, and the site is now defined in hedge work which conveys a clear idea of the outlines of those early conceptions. No work of conservation or restoration could have more adequately met these cases.

The foregoing are specific instances in which definite results liave been obtained by the scientific application of hedges to the delimitation of the boundaries of archieological discoveries, and these are further illustrated by the photographs which accompany the notes.

OBJUCTION TO HEDGES.

Fault is some times found with hedges because, it is said, they impoverish the soil and starve the plants that grow in their neighbourhood. Where this occurs and hedges actually disturb other vegetation it is obviously due to one or both of the following causes:

(a) Insufficiently deep trouching of the site of the heaging.

A deep trench induces perpendicular deep roots ection.

A shallow trench usually results, in lateral roots developing to the detriment of the main roots.

These lateral roots occur as a rule just below the surface of the ground and tap the neighbouring soil for their nourishment. Shallow hedges usually suffer in a prolonged drought.

ুক্

(b) Restriction of light and air which are indispensable to the well-being of all plant life. If vegetation is attempted close against a hedge, it will be adversely affected both by the lateral root action of the hedge, and by the resulting restriction of light and air.

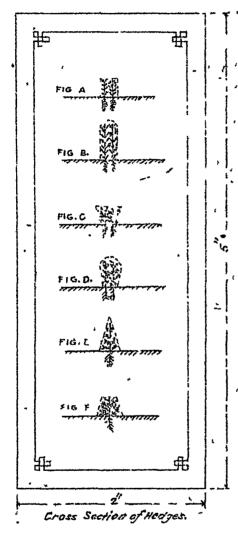
Wherever hedges are introduced, a clear space of from 4 to before should be left on both sides, before shrubbery or any kind of border is attempted. This neutral strip of ground will admit of the necessary diffusion of light and air besides providing a footpath along the hedge for its proper maintenance.

Hedges also harbour insects and other pests. Their presence depends very much upon the condition of the hedges, for if the latter are of vigorous growth little is to be feared. Their ravages may be warded off by due attention to details as to planting, pruning and the periodical removal of decayed limbs. If hedges are planted as advocated, insecticide emulsions can be readily applied and the trouble localized.

SHAPES OR CROSS-SECTION OF HEDGES.

There are several shapes or cross-sections of hedges and their particular shape greatly depends on the object aimed at. The smaller the hedge is to be, the more imperative is it to aim at a square setting. [See Fig. (a).] It is the one usually preferred by architects, its top being clipped at right angles to the sides; precaution should be taken to develop all lower branches by judicious pruning.

Fig. (b) is similar to Fig. (2), but is suitable for tall hedges; the rounded top is more readily obtained and is easy to control. It is a shape that will appeal to most cultivators aiming at developing the lower lateral branches, the sides



receiving an equal amoun of air and light,

· Fig. (c) is usually the most natural development of a twin planted hedge when it has not been cut back in its early stages. It will be seen that the top is thriving to the detriment of the base which is gradually being overshadowed by its expanding top. hedges often become denuded at their base.

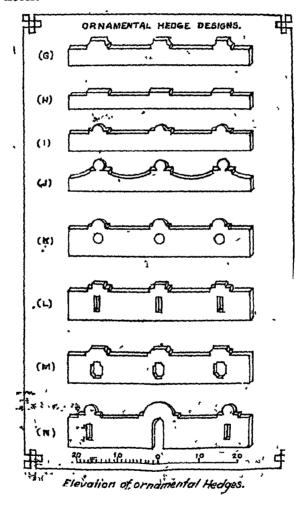
Fig. (d) is the amplification of (c) as (b) is of (a). It is suitable for tall hedges. It should be said this design accentuates the disadvantages of Fig. (c) with regard to the bases and thus deprives it of the characteristic of the hedge.

Fig. (e) or the conical hedge is usually formed

of formal shaped species planted in a single line. It is the most natural section and has been called the Forester's hedge, its natural tendency being to force the lower lateral branches to develop. Such hedges can always be altered and brought to the perpendicular shape as illustrated at (a) and (b).

Fig. (t) speaks for itself. It is the first transformation Fig. (e) is subjected to, and by the removal of the apex the

upper lateral branches quickly develop, enabling Figs. (a) and (b) to be easily obtained. For practical purposes these designs will suffice. There are other fauciful and grotesque shapes which properly belong to the old art of Topiary now almost extinct and which do not come within the scope of these notes.



Designs or elevations of formal decorative hedges.

In the above, the cross-sections or shapes of hedges have been fully dealt with, and it now remains to illustrate the influence modern architecture may have in the formation of ornamental hedges. Figs. (g), (k), (i) and (j) are designs that can be easily obtained and which will adopt themselves admirably to dwarf ornamental hedges bordering a road or thoroughfare, or demarcating a terrace garden, or enclosing an elevated platform.

Figs. (k), (l) and (m) represent ornamental back ground hodges which may frame in a formal garden, sheltering it from high winds, etc. They may equally prove suitable for enclosing stable or garage yards, replacing masonry walls. This particular set of designs will suit hedges from 7 to 9 feet high, providing, if need be, complete seclusion.

Fig. (n) shows to what extent ornamental hedges can be developed. They may be a revival of, or a return to a Topiary ronaissance, where fantastic and animal outlines characteristic of the early Topiary art are replaced by architectural outlines. In the development of such hedges, it will be preferable, if possible, to amplify one of the predominating horizontal lines or features of the adjoining residence. In the case of a dwarf hedge, the height of a plinth of a building may be taken. For high hedges, the spring of an arch, the horizontal of a capital or a window, may define a relative height to be aimed at.

In this respect, it may not be out of place to say that the successful development of bedged enclosures lies in the relative scale to the whole. This is where the landscape and garden architect comes in; the law of proportion and harmony must prevail to ensure a complete success. Then, again, another factor which cannot be ignored, is the necessity

of providing skeleton frames of the type design selected, to facilitate an accurate training. Such skeleton frames may be made of 3" or 2" round iron bars, properly secured so as to govern the defining lines, openings in hedges may be similarly devised by light frames inserted in the growing hedge to ensure uniformity of treatment.

SELECTION AND CLASSIFICATION AS TO THEIR ADAPTABILITIES.

The selection of the most suitable kinds of plants to be made use of calls for careful consideration. In this connection it is necessary to predetermine the kind of hedge required and the effect to be aimed at. And a knowledge of local conditions is equally essential. The following classification should prove helpful in their selection:—

I.—The dwarf ornamental garden hedge.

II.—The dwarf armed or protective hedge.

III.—The tall ornamental garden hedge.

IV .- The tall armed or protective hedge.

V.-Wind breaker or shelter hedge.

VI.—The cactus or railway hedge.

· VII.—The water-logged ground hedge.

VIII.—The brackish or alkaline land hedge.

IX .- The flowering hedge.

X.—The temporary or fast-growing hedge.

Several species will serve equally well for different purposes but the above classification will, so far as Upper India is concerned, enable a suitable selection of hedges to be made.

For convenient reference the foregoing groups are detailed below, their botanical names being shown along with their usual Upper India remacular equivalents. Also their respective

	(5)	
modes of propagation adopted :—	. The following abbre	viations have been
C .= Propagated by	y cuttings,	
B = Dit!o	bulbills.	
D. R.= Ditto	division of roots.	
L.= Ditto	layers.	
S.= Ditto	seeds.	
I,—I) Warf ornamental hedg	es.
Clerodendron inerme	Sang-kuppi	C. D. R. & L.
Dodoniaca viscosa		
Duranta Plumieri	***	C. & S.
Justicia Gendarussa	41,	C.
Lawsonia alba	Mehndi	" C. & S. ,
Myrtus communis	Wilayati Mehndi	C. & S.
II.—DWAR	F ARMED OR PROTECTIVE	HEDGES.
Acacia modesta		S.
Citrus vulgaris	Khatta	S., '
' Clerodendron phlomo	īdes <i>Urni</i> 💛	C. & D. R.
Duranta spinosa	Armed speries	C. & S.
Inga dulcis	Wilayati Babool	4. S.
· 111.—	TALL ORNAMENTAL HEDGI	Es. ' , , ,
Duranta Plumieri	***	C. & S.
Lawsonia alba	Mehndi	C. & S.
Murraya exotica	Marchula	C. & S. ;
Myrtus communis	Wilayati Mehndi	C. & S. ;
Polyalthia longifolia		S.
Thevetia neriifolia	Pila Kaner	S:
IV.—Tale	ARMED OR PROTECTIVE H	ÉDOES.
Acicia Farnesiana	Wilayati Kikar	S.
Carissa Carandas	Wilayati Kikar Karaunda	S
Canaria caniaria	Herm anna	6 %

... Hum garna ...
Khatla
... Pasendu
... Wilayati Babool

... S.

· ... Khatla

Diospyros montana Pasendu

, Caparis sepiaria Citrus vulgaris

Inga dulcis

· У.—Wind	BREAKERS OR SHELTER	úrngrs.
Bambusa of sorts	Bans	C. & S.
Citharexylon subserra	tum Fiddle wood	Cr
	Wilayati Kikar	S.
Prosopis Juliflora	Mesquite	S,
Salix totrasperina	Badha	C.
Sesbania acgyptiaca	Jaint	S.
Tamarix articulata	Farash	C.
VICac	rus, field or rillway	HEDGES.
Agave americana		B.
., vivipara	Khethi	B.
Euphorbia Roylenna	Ther	C. `
Furcroca gigantea		' B.
Opuntia Dillenii	Nagphan	C.
VII -WITLE	LOQUED OR SWAMPT GRO	OUND HEDGES.
Bearbuse of sorts	Bows	C. & S.
Salıx babylonica	Bisa ·	C.
" tetrasperma	Badha	C.
Samarix gallica	Jhan	' S.
VIII.	- Вилокізн г/ир- иддов	:s.
Agave americana		B
" vivipara	Khelhr	, B.
Clerodendron incrme		C. & L.
	Khatta	S.
Euphorbia Röylcana	Thor .t.	, C.
Dodoniaca viscosa	Rathn or Sonattu	, S.
	Wilayati Bubool	, S,
Lawsonia alba	Mehndi	,,, C. & S.
	Wilayati Kikzr	S.
Prosopis julislora	Mesquite	, S. ,
Opuntia Dillenia	Nagphan	C.
Thevetia periifolia	Píla Kuner	S. `
Bauhinia acuminata	X.—Flowening hedges.	•
Danninia acuminata	Kachnar ···	S.
Hibiscus of sorts		C.
Jasminum, sambac Murraya exotica	Mugra	U. & D
	Varchula	V & S.
- farma atuma	" Yellow Eder	S

X .- TEMPORARY OR PAST-GROWING HEDGES

Cajanus indicus	Dhal			, S.
Sesbania negyptiaca	Jaint		•••	· , S.
Tamarix gallica	.,, Jhau	,		S.

As a resume to facilitate references, the above 10 classes have been placed in two distinct groups, one mostly suitable for dry environments and the other for moist tracts.

GROUP (a)-Suitable for dry positions.

Acacia Farnesiana	•••	***	Wilayati Kikar.
,, modesta	***	•••	Phola.
Agave americana	;••	*** *	Rakas paltuh.
" yivipara	***	•••	Khethi.
Caparis sepiara	***	•••	Kum-garna.
Carissa Carendas	•••	***	· Karaundo.
Citrus vulgaris	•••	***	Khatfa.
Clerodendron iuerme	***	***	Sang-huppi.
,, phlomai	des	***	Urni.
Dodoniaca viscosa	***	***	Ralliu, sanalta.
Euphorbia Royleana	171	··· ' ,	Thor.
Drospyros montana	24B	*** .	Pasendu.
Inga dulcis	•1•	••••	Wrlayati Bubool
Lawsonia alba	•••	•••	Mehndi.
Parkinsonia aculeața	•••	•••	Wilayati Kikar.
Prosopis juliflora	•••	14. 444 t	Mesquile. * , *
Opuntia Dillenii	***		Nagphan.
Tamarix articulata	***	* 1.4	Farash.
Tecoma stans	***	***	Yellow Elder. "
Trevetia neriifolia	***	444	Pila Kanti.
Sesbania aegyptiaca	600	,,,	Jaint.
GROUP (b)	– Suitabli	FOR MOIST	C TRAOTS.
Bambusa of sorts		4	Bans.
Baubinia acuminata	•••		Kachnar

Bauhinia acuminata

Duranta of sorts

Hibiscus of sorts

Jasminum sambac

Justicia Gendarussa

Murraya exotica

Marchinla.

GROUP (b)-SUITABLE	For	Moist	TRACTS	-(6	oncl	uded).
Polyalthia longifolia	•••		164			Asck.
Salix babylonica	•••		***	•		Bisa.
tetrasporma	***	,	***		•••	Batha.
Sesbania aegyptiaca	***		***	•	•••	Jaint.
Tamarix gallica	•••		***		***	`Jhau

TEMPORARY VERSUS PURMANENT HEDGES.

In the present age of evolution when cities and gardens have to rise simultaneously, every effort is directed to the attainment of an immediate result. Fast-growing trees, shrubs and hedges have to be produced to cope with the rapidity of the builders, and this has led to a great deal of temporary work which has to play its part till more permanent features can be established.

Time being the all-important factor, the selection of a fast-growing species for immediate planting as a temporary hedge is essential. This should not occupy the permanent hedge alimment, but be placed a few feet away, to enable the permanent hedge to be grown in its allotted place.

Fast-growing hedges, like fast-growing trees and shrubs, have a comparatively limited span of life. It is imperative therefore that the planting of the permanent species should not be delayed.

The number of fast-growing species that are suitable for the purpose is limited to three, and each of these has its own scope. The dwarf demarcating hodge is limited to Cajamus indious or "Dhal" which creates a serviceable hedge within a comparatively short time, a height of 3 feet may be obtained in as many months but it will not adapt itself to anything beyond this.

The taller or screen hedge can only be obtained with Sesbania aegyptiaca, commonly known as jaint. If sown

in the spring or as soon as fresh seeds are obtainable, or at the beginning of the rains, a hedge 5 to 6 feet high can be obtained in the first year. Next comes the water-logged sub-soil hedge or screen which is a semi-acquatic species of Tamarix—T. gallica—known in Upper India as jhau, seeds sown in the spring, or young self-sown saplings transplanted during the rains, will easily reach a height of 8 feet in the first year: it has, however, the drawback of being deciduous in the second year and soon becomes woody.

PLANTING AND PROPAGATION HINTS.

Hedges, whether temporary or permanent, require the same precautions and treatment, and their success greatly depends on the proper preparation of the soil. The main object of planting hedges is to obtain a uniformity of growth which will insure the result aimed at; whether it be a decorative hedge, a protective fence or a wind-breaking belt; for their ultimate success it is obvious that uniformity of treatment from the outset is imperative if disfigurement from blanks or gaps is to be avoided.

It is therefore essential not only to trench the site to be so treated but to dig down to a depth varying from 2 to 2½ feet placing the earth along side the trench. The trench sub-soil should then be turned over to a depth of another foot so as to loosen it, the harder or heavier the soil, the more imperative is this.

If well decomposed manure is obtainable, a small layer should be placed at the bottom of the trench before re-filling it, care being taken to leave a shallow depression to admit of ready irrigation confined to the actual hodge area. Such trenches should be well watered before planting so as to settle the ground, this is most important when hodges are grown from seeds.

It sometimes happens that the conditions of a trench may differ in places. An uncongenial sub-soil may be met with, such as gravel, building material, etc., which often occurs in newly made up ground; in such cases it should be replaced by good earth. To fail to observe this necessary precaution would be to store up trouble later; for it is both difficult and costly to repair hodges. The writer has unhappy recollections of the restoration of a certain hedge which cost ultimately as much per chain as half a mile of new work, and gave endless trouble.

A glance at the classification of hedge plants given in these notes shows that the greatest percentage is propagated by seeds. In the majority of cases direct sowing is prefetable to transplanting and the seeds, if properly sown, germinate evenly and uniformity of growth is more easily obtained. Another appreciable advantage is gained by seeking the seeds prior to sowing, an operation which takes from 6 to 24 hours according to the nature of the seeds, but when this accelerating process is resorted to, great care must be exercised to keep the trench moist till the seeds have properly germinated and their root action begun.

A thin top dressing of sand or fine ashes after sowing considerably helps to retrin the moisture, preventing also the caking of the ground surface which is so prejudicial to newly-sown hedges.

Hedge plants propagated by cuttings are usually grown in nursery beds, and transplanted in position when sufficiently strong. The writer has, however, been successful in inserting cuttings directly into the hedge trenches, but the method is only likely to most with success when suitable wood is obtainable and the weather favourable. Hedge plants usually propagated by layers, division of roots or bulbills are more successfully. Grown in, nursery bods, and planted in position when sufficiently strong.

In cold climates, or in Europe, such precalitions are seldem necessary, as most plants have a prolonged period of rest during which saplings can be readily shifted with the minimum percentage of losses.

MAINTENANCE.

Muloling.—In conclusion a few words on the maintenance and management of hedges may not be out of place. Some hints have already been given in the former chapter on mulching newly-sown hedge trenches by an application of a thin layer of sand or ashes with a view to minimising evaporation. Leaves also provide useful mulching and this operation is most beneficial when it takes the form of a periodical top dressing of manure which is easily assimilated by the plants after rain or irrigation. Besides the manurial benefits derived from this, operation, there is the added advantage that in effect it helps to retain the warmth of the soil in the winter and the freshness and moisture of the ground in the summer.

Hoeing.—Hoeing is another operation which if periodically carried out greatly tends to encourage growth; it is more necessary in India than in Europe that air should be admitted to the roots and this is best done by the operation of hoeing which breaks up the hard surface and loosens the soil around the roots. Hoeing in India is usually done with the khurpi or small hand forks, and on no account should a spade or a phawrah be used. When hoeing is followed by a good mulching or top dressing of manure, it forms the hest treatment one can give for the benefits of a hodge.

Pruning:—On this operation depends the upper structure of the hedge, its strength and shape. It is difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule, as much depends on the species or kind of plants made use of. In general, however, soft wooded

hedges may be pruned at almost any period of their growth, whilst the hard-wooded species are best pruned when the season's wood has matured.

In the case of young dwarf hedges, it is preferable to cut them back to 9 to 12 inches from the ground the first year, to induce vigorous growth of their lower lateral branches, and if this is not done, it will be found difficult to obtain that dense base foundation which constitutes the main feature of a well-grown hedge.

For trimming and finishing the garden hand shears is the most appropriate tool. When dealing with the hard-wooded species the secateur and the lopping shears are needed, but in the case of old hedges the pruning saw and knife are necessary, specially in the annual cutting back when the wood is fully matured, or when renovating an old hedge.

Watering.—In India in general and Upper India in particular little attention is paid to watering. Hedges are watered periodically whether they need it or not, and the result is usually to create an excess of moisture in the sub-soil which the plants are unable to assimilate.

As a general rule watering must be partially suspended when the plants have matured their wood. It is but a law of nature that a period of test is essential to every plant. If one studies how most of the plants made use of actually grow in their natural habitat one is struck by the treatment they are at times made to undergo. To take an example. One of the most common hedges of Upper India, Dodoniaea viscosa, which grows on the arid slopes of the Himalayas up to almost 4,000 feet elevation and is exposed to a period of drought extending over-several months, is usually grown in the plains under conditions so totally different that it is not surprising that Dodoniaea hedges often perish before their allotted span of life is reached.

The period of rest in plants varies greatly, but, as already stated, it generally takes place after the matifrity of the seeds

and lasts till young shoots break forth. This means that once the seeds have matured watering should for a time be reduced or partially suspended, so as to accentuate the period of rest till nature causes a revival, when watering can be resorted to copiously.

Over-watering of hedge plants invariably induces shallow not action. The main roots do not reach the sub-soil moisture and so long as this condition prevails a hedge capable of successfully resisting a period of drought cannot be produced.

OTHER INDIAN HEDGES.

The enumeration of hedge plants given in these notes represents, more or less, all the species utilized in Upper India. Owing, however, to the diversity of climate found in India, other species are frequently being made use of. The following survey, for which I am indebted to the courtesy of the officers in charge of Government, Municipal and State gardens throughout India, conveys an idea of how the several plants, which would thrive but indifferently in Upper India, are giving satisfaction under different climatic conditions:—

In Bengal, our hedges are represented by Dodoniaea, Duranta, Inga dulcis, Murraya, Lawsonia and Sesbania. Bryophyllum, Erythrina, Hibiscus sinensis and Schizophetalus, Polyalthia and Sapium are also being utilized.

In Bibar and Orissa Acacia Farnesiana and Citrus represent our hedgés, Jacquinia ruscifolia and Euphorbia antiquorum are successfully grown.

In the North-West Frontier Province Citrus Dodoniaea and Duranta are quite common, and Acadia arabica is also made use of

In the Central Provinces Dodoniaea, Duranta, Inga dulcis and Sesbania are grown as in Upper India, Galphinia nitida and Haematoxylon campechianum have proved useful as ornamental hedge plants: In Gwalior, bosides Dodoniaea, Duranta, Inga dulois, Lawsonia and Murraya,—Bambusa, Hibiscus, Acalypha, Casuarina and Ixora are employed.

In the Bombay Presidency our Upper India hedges are only represented by Duranta, Inga dulcis, Lawsonia and Murraya, whilst Acalypha, Bougainvillea, Phyllanthus and Strobilanthes are successfully used.

· In Mysore we find a much greater diversity. Our hedges are mostly represented by Clerodendron, Dodoniaea, Duranta, Inga dulcis, Lawsonia and Murraya, whilst Acalypha, Bougainvillea, Casuariua, Cupressus, Hibiscus, Hamelia, Ifigustrum, Pedilanthus, Plumbago, Meyania and Thuja are made use of.

In Madras hedges seem to be limited to fewer species.

Casuarina and Madras thorn are the kinds usually resorted to.

A. E. P. G.

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